(*b*) 222.

(*c*) 76 disputed and the others were *ex-parte*.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know, Sir, who serves these summons to the defendants in the Court of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies? Which is the agency, peons, clerks or the Registrar himself?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* I believe it is by the peons. I am subject to correction.

PANCHAYAT COURT CLERKS—REVISION OF PAY

37. Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether they have received any representation to the effect that the present salary scheme of the Panchayat Court Clerks, is totally inadequate;

(*b*) if so, whether any action is proposed to be taken in the matter;

(*c*) has not Mr. P. V. Raphael, when he was the Panchayat Registrar, recommended a better scheme for these clerks?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* (*a*) Yes. Resolutions were passed by the Panchayat Conference of 1111, 1112, and 1113 that the pay of the Panchayat Court Clerks should be raised.

(*b*) The resolutions could not be accepted on financial grounds.

(*c*) The recommendations of Heads of Departments to Government in such matters are treated as confidential and therefore cannot be revealed.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know, Sir, whether any minimum qualification is prescribed for these Panchayat Court clerks?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Qualifications are not prescribed, but generally School Finals are taken.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know who is the appointing authority with regard to these posts?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* The Director of Public Health and Panchayats.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know whether the expenditure on account of these posts is debited to contingencies or treated as regular establishment charges?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): Regular stablishment, but not pensionable.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know, Sir, whether Government have any objection to bring all these appointments under the purview of the Staff Selection Board?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* The question will have to be considered. As it is not pensionable service, I will have to consult the department to find out whether that is possible.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* In view of the fact that they are officers of court is there any objection to prescribe minimum qualifications for the posts?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Now, it is prescribed practically as "School Final".

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* But there is no Government order to the effect. Generally people of lower qualifications are employed as Panchayat Court clerks and there are so many complaints.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Why not Government also fix departmental tests for these clerks? Malayalam Civil Procedure Code and Account Tests will be sufficient.

Mr. K. Kochukunhan Kaimal *(Vadakkancheri):* Is it not better to give them some training in civil courts, because they have to know all the procedure? I think it would be better that clerks in Panchayat Courts having civil jurisdiction should be given some training in the Munsiffs' Courts.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* I do not know whether it is practicable.

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar *(Nemmara):* May I know, Sir, whether members themselves are well-versed in the procedure?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* I do not think all of them are *(Laughter)*.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* What is the salary of the Panchayat clerks?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Rs. 15 per mensem.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* Is there any chance of promotion or increment?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* No.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* Has the Government any serious objection to provide for some increment in appreciation of their services?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* The difficulty is on financial grounds. This is a very large question. If we are to raise their salary by 4 or 5 rupees, it will come to a very large amount. The allotment under Panchayats being very small and as I am anxious that the whole amount provided is not utilised towards the salaries of the staff, unless we get additional grants, it will be impossible to consider this matter.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* May I suggest that the salary that is now given may be divided into two grades with the same amount, so that one set may get a lower salary and they might aspire for a promotion to the higher grade. This will be a sort of incentive to them.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* The matter will be placed before the Panchayat Conference.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Is it not enough if vakils' clerks are given preference in these appointments?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* In the first place, there will not be many vakils' clerks who will aspire for these posts. Secondly they will be more dangerous.

Mr. Puthur Achyuta Menon *(Kattur):* What is the grade proposed in the Panchayat resolution?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* The grade proposed there is Rs. 15 to 20.

Mr. Puthur Achyuta Menon *(Kattur):* What is the amount the Government will have to spend annually to give effect to this?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* It may come to about Rs. 4,000 or Rs. 5,000 a year.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: പഞ്ചായത്തു കുറക്കുമാക്ക പ്രോവിഡന്റ ഫണ്ട സിസ്റ്റമുണ്ടോ?

ഡോക്ടർ എ. ആർ. മേനോൻ: ഇല്ല.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly